

Certain chapters were of particular interest to this reviewer: "Age-related cardiovascular changes," "Disease of the coronary arteries," "Ischemic diseases of the myocardium," "Postoperative congenital cardiac disease." (The subject of congenital heart disease in general is not included in the book because of the feeling that good texts limited to this subject are available—which is the right decision.)

Some minor defects are noted: The chapter on the conducting system is disappointing—anatomic basis for arrhythmias is treated very briefly. The divisions of the left bundle branch and their diseases are dealt with in a brief paragraph.

In general this is a valuable addition to the libraries not only of pathologists but cardiologists and cardiovascular surgeons as well. Also, it would be a good reference book for students and house staff. It is highly recommended.

ARTHUR SELZER, MD
Chief, Division of Cardiology
Pacific Medical Center
San Francisco

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STERIODS IN ASTHMA: A REAPPRAISAL IN THE LIGHT OF INHALATION THERAPY—Edited by T. J. H. Clark, Professor of Thoracic Medicine, Guy's Hospital Medical School, London. John Wright/PSG Inc., 545 Great Road, Littleton, MA 01460, 1983. 233 pages, \$42.50.

Most medical monographs carefully cultivate the facade of impartiality and objectivity. T. J. H. Clark, the editor of *Steroids in Asthma* plays no such charade. It is his personal "view [that] the baleful reputation of systemic corticosteroids has cast too long a shadow over the treatment of asthma inappropriately limiting the more widespread use of inhaled corticosteroids." He then selects monograph contributors who are, in essence, given the charge to support this view. The reader is immediately put on notice that this book may not be worthwhile. Next, the reader thumbs through the book which has the elegance that commercial artists impart to drug company advertising (big print, wide margins, multicolor figures, glossy photographs) but which is nearly devoid of standard deviations and contains no measures of statistical significance. Finally, the reader notes that 3 of the 12 contributors are from New Zealand. What do they know about asthma in New Zealand! Should the reader put down the book and move on? No.

The elegant format that makes the monograph suspicious, the panache of style common to English writers and the attention-getting topic headings in the left margins make this monograph a delight to read. More important, the book is worthwhile for its medical content. The editor has fairly warned the reader that this book is a polemic and the contributors provide lively and, for the most part, intelligent support of that polemic. The reader must remain cautious. Conclusions are drawn that may or may not be true. For instance, Compton in Chapter 11 states that pediatricians inexplicably use methylxanthines and implies that inhaled corticosteroids are preferable. I ask Dr Compton, "Where is the long-term study comparing methylxanthines with inhaled steroids?"

Steroids in Asthma is a genre of monographs that is all too rare. It is not only a book about medical facts but about medical style. It conveys the experiences, insights, opinions and clinical techniques of the contributors. Topics range from the epidemiology of asthma to a guide on how to correctly use inhalers. (The title of *Steroids in Asthma* is misleading since the monograph concerns a much broader approach to asthma.) The contributors are attuned to providing the reader with information useful in the practical management of asthmatic patients. Although I admonish the reader to be wary of the monograph's sweeping conclusions, the reader will have a better fund of information about asthma and have guidelines on how to interpret and use that information. Incidentally, I now know that New Zealand has a lot to teach me about asthma.

BERTRAND J. SHAPIRO, MD
Adjunct Professor of Medicine
UCLA School of Medicine
Director, Respiratory Therapy Department
UCLA Medical Center
Los Angeles

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ATLAS OF SURGICAL OPERATIONS, Fifth Edition—Robert M. Zollinger, MD, DSc(Hon), FACS, FRCS(Hon) England and Edinburgh, Emeritus Regents Professor and Chairman of the Department of Surgery, The Ohio State University College of Medicine, and Chief of the Surgical Service, University Hospitals, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio; and Robert M. Zollinger, Jr, MD, FACS, Associate Professor of Surgery, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine and University Hospitals, Cleveland, Ohio. Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc., 866 Third Ave., New York, NY 10022, 1983. 436 pages, \$80.00.

My reaction to a detailed inspection of the Fifth Edition of the *Atlas of Surgical Operations* by Zollinger and Zollinger is the same as my reaction more than 40 years ago when I received a copy of the First Edition of this atlas by Elliott C. Cutler and Robert Zollinger: "How can any surgeon be without it?" Until the new Fifth Edition arrived I still found many occasions to refer to my first edition and later to Volume II published in 1967 for a presurgical review of the technical details of an operation, sometimes of an operation I had performed many times before and in some cases where minor details of my technique differed from those presented by the authors. However, I have always found their clear line drawings and brief pertinent comments to be helpful.

Volume II published in 1967 was designed to present the more complicated procedures and to complement the standard operations presented in Volume I. The Fifth Edition presents a combination of procedures of both categories with various additions and deletions of subjects from previous editions giving a final presentation of 206 chapters or sections.

Selection of procedures to be covered in a general atlas of this type of course is a major task and reflects the interests and the background of the authors. The first plate of the first edition was tonsillectomy, a procedure that has been deleted from later editions despite the fact that it is still one of the most commonly performed operative procedures in this country. The authors probably agree with many surgeons and most pediatricians that the procedure is greatly overused. The section on gynecological procedures is retained and there is an extensive section on vascular surgery.

In the thoracic surgery section the technique of pneumomec-tomy and lobectomy have been omitted but rib resection and thoracotomy incisions, which a general surgeon might use for certain elective and emergency procedures, are appropriately retained.

Considerable space is devoted to radical mastectomy although it is stated that "radical mastectomy is no longer a routine procedure for carcinoma of the breast," and few such operations are being performed in most US hospitals today. Despite the strong public pressure to continue the evaluation of even less extensive excisional procedures than modified radical mastectomy there is no discussion of partial mastectomy.

This addition is an update of a format that has been highly successful for more than 40 years. The general selection of important procedures, the excellent clear artwork and the brief but pertinent text will continue to make this volume essential to the library of every student, practitioner and teacher of surgery.

WILLIAM P. LONGMIRE, Jr MD
Professor of Surgery
UCLA School of Medicine
Distinguished Physician
Veterans Administration
Los Angeles

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CLINICAL MANAGEMENT OF POISONING AND DRUG OVERDOSE—Lester M. Haddad, MD, Clinical Assistant Professor, Medical College of Georgia; Director, Savannah Regional EMS Poison Center; Director of Education, Department of Emergency Medicine, Memorial Medical Center, Savannah, Georgia; and James F. Winchester, MD, FRCP, Associate Professor of Medicine, Georgetown University School of Medicine, and Co-Director of Hemodialysis, Hemoperfusion and Transplantation Services, Georgetown University Medical Center, Washington, DC. W B Saunders Company, West Washington Square, Philadelphia, PA 19105, 1983. 1,012 pages, \$75.00.

Haddad and Winchester have collaborated with 84 authors to prepare 107 chapters in a new text of 1,000 pages concerning the management of poisoning and drug overdose. In the past five years there has been an explosion of new data in the field of clinical toxicology. This text is conveniently divided into two parts: the first part deals with a general approach to poisoning and the second concerns specific agents. This division